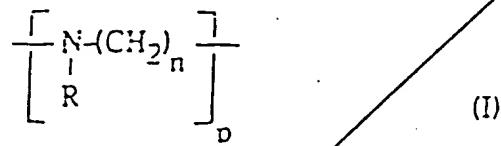
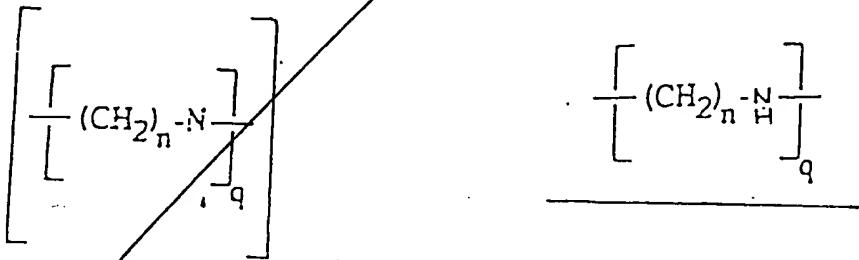


24. (Twice amended.) The composition according to claim 23, wherein said cationic polymer is a compound of the formula (I):



wherein R is a hydrogen atom or a group of formula:



wherein n is a number from 2 to 10, and p and q are numbers wherein the sum p+q is such that the average molecular weight of the polymer ranges from 100 to 10^7 Da.

REMARKS

With entry of this Amendment, claims 1-20, 22-25, and 27-51 are pending in the application.

Page 16 of the specification has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error in the formula inserted between lines one and two. In the

specification as filed, a hydrogen atom, bound to the only nitrogen atom in the formula, was erroneously omitted. Applicants have amended the specification to correct this obvious error by replacing the erroneous formula with the chemically correct formula, which includes the necessary hydrogen atom. An analogous amendment corrects the same error in claim 24. The undersigned has been advised by Applicants that one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize the existence of this error in the specification and claim 24, and also the appropriate correction, in view of: (1) the knowledge in the art that nitrogen atoms are trivalent; (2) the absence of a third bond to the nitrogen in the erroneous formula; and (3) the absence of an indication in the erroneous formula that the nitrogen atom bears any charge. Because the error in the specification and claim 24 would be readily apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art and the appropriate correction known, the amendments herein do not constitute the addition of new matter.

M.P.E.P. § 2163.07, *citing In re Oda*, 170 U.S.P.Q. 260 (C.C.P.A. 1971).

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005
202-408-4000

Serial No.: 09/369,883
Attorney Docket No. 03806.0448

Applicants do not believe that entry of this Preliminary Amendment requires payment of a fee, or an extension of time. However, to the extent any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this Amendment, please grant any such extension of time and charge any required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By: Steven P. O'Connor
Steven P. O'Connor
Reg. No. 41,225

Date: January 10, 2000

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005
202-408-4000